

QUALITY STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

(TC-98-12-06-7-AR)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executing agencies:	The Argentine Accreditation Board and the National Quality Award Foundation	
Beneficiaries:	Small and medium-sized professional and technical enterprises, quality standard auditors and implementers, quality certification firms, testing and calibration laboratories, and the National Standards, Quality, and Certification System.	
General objective:	The general objective of the program is to improve the competitiveness of Argentine small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by promoting quality in their management, processes, and products. The program has two aims: (i) to strengthen the National System of Standards, Quality, and Certification by promoting international recognition of the Argentine Accreditation Board and promoting demand for accreditation services; and (ii) to improve quality among Argentine SMEs by promoting their adoption of the National Quality Award quality management model.	
Financing:	Modality:	Grant
	MIF (Facility II)	US\$1,637,000
	Local counterpart:	<u>US\$1,563,000</u>
	Total:	<u>US\$3,200,000</u>
Execution timetable:	Execution period:	36 months
	Disbursement period:	42 months
Special contractual conditions:	The first disbursement is conditioned upon: (a) application of the Implementation Manual; (b) preparation of terms of reference for the consultants and evaluators; and (c) hiring of the program coordinators.	
Exceptions to Bank policy:	None.	
Environmental and social review:	The project was reviewed by the Committee on Environment and Social Impact (CESI) on 6 October 2000. The CESI's recommendations are reflected in the document.	